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Extracts from the Minutes of the American Philosophical Society, respecting a Donation proposed by Mr. J. H. de MAGELLAN, of London.

January 1786,

MR. J. H. de Magellan of London, having in a letter, dated the 17th of September last, and communicated to the society by Mr. Vaughan, one of the Vice-Presidents, made an offer to the society of *two hundred guineas*, to be vested in a permanent fund, that the interest arising therefrom may be disposed of in annual premiums, to the authors of the best discoveries or most useful improvements relating to navigation, or to natural philosophy, mere natural history only excepted: And the society having most thankfully accepted the generous offer, appointed a committee to frame rules and conditions for the disposition of the proposed premiums, agreeable to the intention of the donor, expressed in his letter, but more precise in the terms; which being done, and approved of by the society, were immediately transmitted in a letter to Mr. Magellan, for his confirmation or amendment. They are as follow, viz.

1. The candidate shall send his discovery, invention or improvement, addressed to the President or a Vice-President of the Society, free of postage or other charges; and shall distinguish his performance by some motto, device or signature, at his pleasure. Together with his discovery, invention or improvement, he shall also send a sealed letter, containing the same motto, device or signature, and subscribed with the real name and place of residence of the author.

2. Persons

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2. Persons of any nation, sect, or denomination whatever, shall be admitted as candidates for this premium.

3. No discovery, invention or improvement shall be entitled to this premium, which hath been already published, or for which the author hath been publicly rewarded elsewhere.

4. The candidate shall communicate his discovery, invention or improvement either in the English, French, German, or Latin language.

5. All such communications shall be publicly read or exhibited to the Society, at some stated meeting, not less than one month previous to the day of adjudication; and shall at all times be open to the inspection of such members as shall desire it. But no member shall carry home with him the communication, description or model, except the officer to whom it shall be entrusted: nor shall such officer part with the same out of his custody, to any but the judges, who may demand it for consideration.

6. The twelve counsellors, together with the other officers annually elected according to the charter and laws of the Society, shall be judges of the merits of the several communications, and award the premium. Which adjudication shall be determined by a majority of judges met; provided that such majority be not less than seven concurring votes.

7. And for this purpose the counsellors and other officers, or at least seven of them, shall meet on the second Monday in December, in every year, to form their judgment and award the premium. After due consideration had, a vote shall first be taken on this question, viz. "Whether any of the communications then under inspection, are worthy of the proposed premium?" If this shall be determined in the *negative*, the whole business shall be deferred till another year: But if in the *affirmative*, the judges shall then proceed to determine, by vote, the discovery, invention or improvement most useful and worthy.

And

And that discovery, invention or improvement which shall be found to have the greatest number of concurring votes (being not less than seven) in its favour, shall be successful. Whereupon a certificate in writing shall be forthwith drawn of this adjudication, and signed by those who voted for the crowned subject: And then, *and not till then*, the sealed letter accompanying the crowned performance, shall be opened and the name of the author announced; which certificate shall be presented to the Society at their next stated meeting, and delivered to the Secretary to be entered on record, in a bound book provided for this purpose.

8. A full account of the crowned subject shall be published by the Society as soon as may be, after the adjudication, either in a separate publication, or in the next succeeding volume of their Transactions, or in both.

9. The unsuccessful performances shall lie over for consideration, and remain, as candidates for the premium, for *five* succeeding years next after their presentment; unless the author or authors shall think fit to withdraw them or any of them: And the Society shall publish annually an abstract of the titles, object or subject matter of the communications so under consideration, such only excepted as the counsellors and other officers shall, by vote as aforesaid, have determined not worthy of public notice.

10. No counsellor or officer who is a candidate shall sit in judgment, or give his vote.

11. The letters containing the names of authors whose performances shall be rejected, or shall be found unsuccessful after a trial of five years, shall be burnt without breaking the seals.

12. In case there should be a failure, in any year, of any communication worthy of the proposed premium, there will then be two premiums awarded in the next year. But no accumulation of premiums shall entitle an author to more than one premium for any one discovery, invention or improvement.

13. The

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13. The premium shall consist of an oval plate of solid standard gold, of the value of *Ten Guineas*. On one side thereof shall be neatly engraved the following motto, ————— together with these words, *The donation of ——— of London, established in the year 1786*. And on the other side of the plate shall be engraved these words, *Awarded by the A. P. S. to ——— ——— for his discovery of ——— ——— A. D. 17—*. ——— *President*. And the seal of the Society shall be annexed to the said golden plate, by a ribbon passing through a small hole near the lower edge thereof.

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